

Date April 19, 2005

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Installation for coating objects, in particular vehicle bodies and parts thereof, comprising
 - a) a coating booth, in which at least one application device is arranged;
 - b) a drying booth downstream of the coating booth;
 - c) a plurality of skids having two skid runners which run parallel to the movement direction and each carrying at least one object to be coated;
 - d) a skid-conveying system, on which the skid runners of the skids rest and which guides the skids through the coating booth and the drying booth, characterised in that
 - e) adjacent skids (2) are movable into one another such that they partially overlap in the movement direction.
2. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 1, characterised in that the skids (2) have a supporting structure (11) comprising:
 - a) a supporting frame (12, 12'), of which the sides running parallel to the movement direction are formed by the two skid runners (13, 14), the first skid runner (13) projecting forwards beyond the supporting frame (12) in the movement direction, while the second skid runner (14) projects rearwards beyond the supporting frame (12) counter to the movement direction;
 - b) a front support, which is connected to the supporting frame (12) and projects forwards beyond the supporting frame (12) parallel to the first skid runner (13), but is at a distance from the first skid runner (13) which is less than the distance between the two skid runners (13, 14);
 - c) a rear support (16), which is connected to the supporting frame (12) and projects rearwards beyond the supporting frame (12) parallel to the second skid runner (14), but is at a distance from the second skid runner (14) which is less than the distance between the two skid runners (13, 14).
3. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,

characterised in that each skid (2) has stops (~~17, 18, 19', 20'~~) which define the extent to which adjacent skids (2) are movable into another.

4. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 3, characterised in that each skid (2) has first stops (~~17, 18, 19', 20'~~), which define the extent to which adjacent skids (2) carrying identical objects (~~5, 6, 7, 8~~) are movable into one another, and second stops (~~13 to 16, 13' to 16'~~), which define the extent to which adjacent skids (~~2, 2'~~) carrying different objects (~~5, 6, 7, 8~~) are movable into one another.

5. (Currently Amended) Installation according to claim 4, characterised in that the second stops are formed by the skid runners (~~13, 14, 13', 14'~~) and/or the supports (~~15, 16, 15', 16'~~).

REMARKS

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to the first Office Action and prior to the calculation of the filing fee for the subject application. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 – 5 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 5 have been amended.

The Abstract has been placed on a separate page. The Abstract is the same as on the International Patent Application except that reference numbers have been deleted, and the word "having" has replaced the word "comprising."

A handwritten, corrected copy of the specification is enclosed showing the changes which have been made to the specification as required by Section 608.01(Q) and 714.20(1) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. The Substitute Specification filed herewith has been amended to utilize idiomatic English, correct minor typographical and grammatical errors and to conform the application to current United States Patent practice. The Substitute Specification includes no new subject matter; but does include the same changes handwritten in red in the attached, corrected, original specification. The Substitute Specification also includes the Abstract on a separate sheet as noted in this Amendment. It is submitted